

AMADOR
RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICT
Mailing Address: 12200-B Airport Road, Jackson CA 95642

DIRECTORS
Steve Cannon, Carole Marz, Dan Port, Emily Taylor, Dr. Kelsi Williams
Associate Directors

REGULAR MEETING AGENDA

DATE: October 3, 2022 **TIME:** 3:30 PM **LOCATION:** 12200-B Airport Road, Jackson, CA 95642

Due to concerns about health & the need to maintain social distance, this meeting will allow for telephone attendance via conference call. If interested, please call 1 361-459-2188 PIN: 942 133 612#. If you choose to attend via video conference, go to <https://meet.google.com/zqc-xwcr-dtz>

ROLL CALL
AGENDA

Approval of agenda for this date; any and all off-agenda items must be approved by the Board of Directors Pursuant to Para 5495.2 of the government code.

ORAL COMMUNICATIONS BY THE PUBLIC FOR ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA CONSIDERATION OF "EMERGENCY OR "SUBSEQUENT NEED" ITEMS NOT APPEARING ON THE AGENDA Cal. Gov't Code 54954.2(b)(2)

Item #	Time Allotted	Topic
1	3:30 – 4:00	Discuss and approve Resolution 2022-10-3-1 Resolution authorizing the Amador, Alpine, Calaveras, Tuolumne Natural and Working Lands Collaborative application for grant funding under the Regional Climate Collaboratives program as administered by the Strategic Growth Council.
2	4:00	Adjourn



Amador Resource Conservation District
12200 B Airport Road, Jackson CA 95642

RESOLUTION

**Before the Board of Directors of the Amador Resource Conservation District
Amador County, California**

Resolution authorizing the application for grant funding under the Regional Climate Collaboratives program as administered by the Strategic Growth Council.

WHEREAS in 2022 the Legislature and the Governor of the State of California provided funds for the Regional Climate Collaboratives grant program, pursuant to SB 1072 (2018); and

WHEREAS the Strategic Growth Council is responsible for the administration of this grant program, including developing guidelines and selection criteria; and

WHEREAS the Strategic Growth Council released the application guidance on February 7th, 2022, with a due date of October 7th, 2022; and

WHEREAS procedures established by the Strategic Growth Council require a resolution certifying the approval of application(s) by the Applicant’s governing board before submission to the State; and

WHEREAS the Amador Resource Conservation District, Executive Director, is authorized to apply for and accept a Regional Climate Collaboratives grant if awarded, and authority to execute all related documents; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the Amador Resource Conservation District: approves the filing of an application for a Regional Climate Collaboratives grant for funding year 2022, to be submitted no later than October 7th 2022.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Amador Resource Conservation District certifies that Applicant, in partnership with its co-applicants, will have sufficient resources to execute the capacity building activities that are outlined in the grant application.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Amador Resource Conservation District appoints the Executive Director, or designee, as agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents including, but not limited to, applications, agreements, and payment requests that may be necessary for competition of the aforementioned capacity building activities.

FURTHER RESOLVED that the Executive Director shall certify to the adoption of this resolution, which shall take effect immediately upon adoption.

PASSED, APPROVED, AND ADOPTED October 3rd 2022 by the following vote:

AYES: _____ **NOES:** _____ **ABSTAIN:** _____

Signature

Print Name, Title

10/3/2022
Date

Project Title: Amador-Alpine-Calaveras-Tuolumne Natural and Working Lands (AACT NWL) Collaborative

Counties Covered: Amador, Calaveras, Tuolumne, Alpine

Project Lead: Amador Resource Conservation District

Current Project Partners: Tuolumne County Resource Conservation District, Calaveras County Resource Conservation District, Alpine Watershed Group, Carbon Cycle Institute, California Association Resource Conservation District

Grant Program: Strategic Growth Councils Regional Climate Collaboratives (RCC) Program

Total Project Budget: \$1,358,000 three-year project

Grant Application Due: October 7th 2022

The Amador-Alpine-Calaveras-Tuolumne Natural and Working Lands Collaborative (AACT NWL) will build awareness, capacity, and regional planning efforts to increase climate resiliency by implementing climate-smart land management. The AACT NWL Collaborative will adopt the following strategies to accomplish this goal:

1. Advance local policy that incorporates climate-smart land management targets
2. Increase the adoption of climate smart land management on public and private lands by providing technical assistance and resources
3. Build capacity for regional coordination to advance the awareness of climate smart land management practices within local industry and communities
4. Engage in a regional needs assessment to prioritize the involvement of disadvantaged communities
5. Utilize locally aggregated data on socio-economic and welfare metrics to build workforce and economic development programs

The region includes Alpine, Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne counties (AACT) and is comprised of a diversity of natural and working lands providing critical ecosystem services not only to its residents, but to the rest of the state. The AACT region encompasses over 4,600 square miles of private and public land, including 1,500 farms that produce \$120 million worth of agricultural goods annually. The majority of private land in the region is managed by farmers and ranchers, or large scale forestry operations. The remaining public land is managed by agencies such as the U.S. Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management. Currently, public and private lands are managed without meaningful inter-agency or multi-stakeholder collaboration. This project aims to bring these groups together in conversation around shared goals for climate resilience.

The Amador-Alpine-Calaveras-Tuolumne Natural & Working Lands (AACT NWL) Collaborative will build capacity within the proposed region for planning, education, and implementation of projects that enhance climate resilience on NWL. The AACT region comprises over 3 million acres of forest, range and farmland with significant industries and communities invested in the continued viability of these landscapes. The AACT NWL Collaborative will identify climate resilience opportunities on NWL, working with counties to support meaningful involvement of NWL as a climate solution in local policy. The proposed Collaborative will aggregate locally relevant data and resources to design and ultimately scale the implementation of climate-smart land management practices with an emphasis on promoting local economic development via the meaningful involvement of disadvantaged and tribal communities. By engaging in a thorough needs and

opportunity assessment, the Collaborative will advance a novel, multi-stakeholder approach to addressing the challenges of climate change in rural communities.

The AACT NWL Collaborative is an innovative and multi-stakeholder project that marries data collection to inform local and statewide policy development with on- the-ground project implementation to achieve reductions in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and enhanced climate resilience. The proposed project will focus on the critical role natural and working lands play in regional planning for climate action and long-term resilience. The goal of the project is two-fold: (1) jointly sustain agricultural lands (including forested landscapes) in production while increasing the potential for employment opportunities and (2) facilitate widespread adoption of climate-smart land management practices that increase carbon sequestration, which in turn will increase regional climate resilience. AACT Collaborative efforts will support development and/or implementation of the following planning frameworks: Climate Resiliency relates incentives, Carbon Farm Plans, Fire Prevention Projects, Forest Health Projects, Sustainable Agricultural Lands Conservation, Sustainable Groundwater Management Act implementation, and Integrated Regional Water Management Plans. Of the counties within the region, only Tuolumne has engaged with the Climate Action Planning (CAP) process. Tuolumne RCD was not consulted in this process and as a result the CAP contains no natural and working lands (NWL) targets. The Collaborative would use this experience to work for the meaningful involvement of NWL in the climate related planning processes or initiatives in Amador, Calaveras and Alpine counties. A goal of this effort is to ensure appropriate, and data centered involvement of NWL, instead of perfunctory and possible detrimental misrepresentations or being left out of the discussion entirely.

The Amador, Calaveras and Tuolumne Resource Conservation Districts (RCDs) operate under an existing Partnership Agreement that allows the RCDs to share resources, staff, and jointly collaborate on projects that result in regional climate resilience. This award would enable the Collaborative to expand such agreements and include the Alpine Watershed Group. To date, the Amador RCD, which has been awarded two California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) Healthy Soils Program (HSP) Technical Assistance grants and has successfully worked in Amador, Calaveras and Alpine counties to secure funding for seventeen (17) healthy soils projects on farms and ranches throughout the region. In addition to the CDFA HSP incentive projects, three (3) carbon farm plans (CFPs) are being developed in Amador County. The Collaborative will expand the adoption of carbon farm planning and implementation in the region to ensure the meaningful involvement of NWLs in county-level climate action and resiliency planning. Moving forward, the Collaborative would expand its reach to residents, landowners, and businesses in under-resourced communities by conducting targeted outreach in these communities and engaging in regional capacity and socio-economic assessment efforts. The Collaborative would also lift up current organizations, initiatives, and tribal programs to solicit broad-based stakeholder feedback, engagement, and collaboration.

AACT NWL Collaborative Strategies & Tasks

1. Advance local policy that incorporates climate-smart land management targets

- a. Consult county governments on the development of appropriate climate action planning initiatives, such as Climate Action Plans, Integrated Regional Water Management Plans, Landscape Scale Forest Management Planning, that highlight nature-based solutions - *all partners*
 - i. Schedule collaborative-wide meeting to determine status of existing climate action planning efforts within the region - *all partners*
 - ii. Identify appropriate climate action planning initiatives and work with county governments to execute - *all partners*

- iii. Create NWL section of the climate action planning initiatives that highlights nature-based solutions - *all partners*
 - b. Track policy and advocate for the meaningful incorporation of nature-based solutions on NWL - *all partners*
 - i. Convene bi-annual meetings with statewide organizations, such as CalCAN, CCI, CARCD, to provide regional insights into policy development - *all partners*
 - ii. Participate in statewide, regional, and local funding and policy development to incorporate local stakeholder feedback and regional data. Such as roundtables, task forces, and information gathering workshops - *all partners*

2. Increase the adoption of climate smart land management on public and private lands by providing technical assistance and resources

- a. Provide technical assistance to land managers by providing educational opportunities, BMPs, and grant application assistance to implement climate-smart land management - *Amador RCD*
 - i. Conduct outreach to landowners to solicit increased adoption and awareness of climate-smart land management practices - *ACT RCDs, AWG*
 - ii. Inventory and showcase current adopters of BMPs and climate-smart practices to encourage adoption and act as demonstrations. - *ACT RCDs, AWG*
 - iii. Identify existing community/peer to peer networks (ex. Rancher to Rancher, Fire Safe Councils, Cooperative Extension etc.) that support land managers and identify ways to support and bolster efforts and/or funding - *ACT RCDs, AWG*
 - iv. Identify gaps and opportunities in community/peer to peer networks and work with community leaders to develop resources to meet unmet needs. - *ACT RCDs, AWG*
- b. Identify, coordinate, and apply to grant funding to implement climate-smart land management projects (i.e. CalFire Fire Prevention, DOC Climate Smart Land Management Program, etc) - *all partners*
 - i. Collaborative members will coordinate with private and public funders to organize informational meetings about relevant funding programs based off previously identified regional needs - *all partners*
 - ii. Develop regional block grant proposals with collaborative members - *all partners*
 - iii. Host an annual workshop to generate community engagement in grant opportunities and solicit feedback on proposed projects - *all partners*

3. Build capacity for regional coordination to advance the awareness of climate smart land management practices within local industry and communities

- a. Host quarterly collaborative meetings to share resources, best practices, and build relationships - *all partners*
- b. Carbon Sequestration Assessment for NWL and Implementation Plan Development - *Amador RCD, CCI*
 - i. Conduct GIS analysis of carbon sequestration potential - *Amador RCD, CCI*
 - ii. Conduct assessment of barriers to scaling, including technical assistance, materials, labor, equipment, and other workforce and infrastructure requirements - *Amador RCD, CCI*

- iii. Select scenarios for carbon farm implementation with targets, measures, and cost estimates to inform local climate initiatives - *Amador RCD, CCI*
- iv. Development of carbon sequestration implementation plan for NWL, including a corresponding financial plan - *Amador RCD, CCI*
- c. Refine and build out existing data management tool to evaluate the feasibility of resource management projects - *Tuolumne RCD*
 - i. Inventory fuel load, vegetation type and physical characteristics to build regional map and database for potential resource management projects, such as fuel treatment and habitat restoration projects - *ACT RCDs, AWG*
 - ii. Utilize RCD Project Tracker to increase access and transparency around RCD project implementation, funding and impacts by entering and storing summary-level project data about carbon sequestration, GHG emissions reductions and other ecological outcomes. - *ACT RCDs*

4. Engage in a regional needs assessment to prioritize the involvement of disadvantaged communities

- a. Work with qualified consultant to identify gaps in current DWR and CARB metrics on under-resourced communities - *ACT RCDs, AWG*
- b. Increase tribal involvement in collaborative - *all partners*
 - i. Engage in collaborative-wide training on tribal outreach and engagement best practices - *all partners*
 - ii. Build relationships with local tribes and formalize their participation in the collaborative - *ACT RCDs, AWG*

5. Utilize locally aggregated data on socio-economic and welfare metrics to build workforce and economic development programs

- a. Utilize data to inform local workforce development to employ under-resourced community members and leverage existing programs such as Greater Valley Conservation Corps and Pine Grove Youth Conservation Camp, in fuels treatment and other projects - *all partners*
 - i. Create a sub-committee dedicated to coordination among local workforce, with a particular focus on biomass utilization - *Amador RCD*
- b. Host annual stakeholder roundtables to inform the workforce development program - *all partners*
 - i. Increase coordination with local colleges, such as Columbia Colleg's Forestry and Natural Resources Program - *ACT RCD's, AWG*
 - ii. Generate report on barriers and opportunities for local workforce development - *Amador RCD*

6. Track progress and evaluate RCC grant outcomes (SGC required)

- a. Develop Project Evaluation Plans - *Amador RCD*
- b. Conduct data collection, tracking, and reporting associated with grant evaluation - *Amador RCD*

7. Engage in SGC-facilitated peer-to-peer learning sessions (SGC required)

- a. Participate in SGC-facilitated peer-to-peer learning across Collaboratives - *Amador RCD*